

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Protecting Uncle Sam's Mail While in Transit

IT TAKES over a million locks to protect Uncle Sam's letters while in transit, and the post office department makes and keeps in repair not alone all of these locks, but also all fastening devices used in the mail service.



Previous to 1889 everything of this nature was furnished and repaired at a great expense by contract, and not always to the complete satisfaction of the department. In that year it was decided to repair the locks, and a small shop was installed in Washington.

It was found that the department could do the work not only cheaper but better, and the following year it was decided to enter into the manufacture of locks, keys and mail-bag attachments, as it was believed that it would be an advantage to the department to have its own shop, where orders could be filled more promptly and with less danger of keys getting into the hands of those not entitled to them.

From a small room equipped with one drill press and one stamping press and employing a half dozen workmen, the shop has grown to a complete factory. It is equipped with tools and machinery, including a tool and die department, where all tools, dies, jigs, etc., necessary for the converting of sheet steel and brass and other material into locks and keys and other attachments are made; a pressroom with 14 stamping presses, a lock finishing and assembling room, a miscellaneous room, where cord fasteners are assembled and other equipment made, also where hundreds of postal seals are repaired and made as good or better than new each year; a tinning plant, where all mail-bag attachments are tinned to prevent rusting.

Generous Response to Appeal for Red Cross

PRESIDENT WILSON'S appeal to the people of the United States to strengthen the American Red Cross is meeting with enthusiastic response, in Pittsburgh notably. In his plea for rapid mobilization of the nation's resources, the president asked for 1,000,000 new members of the Red Cross.

For the first time in the history of the United States the children of the nation are being called upon to aid in measures taken in preparation for war. The distinction has fallen to the school-children of Pittsburgh to be the first in the country to receive this call. Arrangements were made between Superintendent of Schools Davidson and the executive committee of the Pittsburgh Chapter American Red Cross to enlist the services of every child in the public schools. Superintendent Davidson informed all school principals that membership blanks for enrollment in the Red Cross would be delivered at the various public schools at once. Each pupil was given two application blanks, with instructions to take them home and enlist at least two members of the family.

Many churches throughout the country, regardless of denomination, have their own Red Cross organization. Besides working for membership, the churches are doing active work in the matter of preparing bandages, bedding, underwear and other Red Cross necessities. Employers in stores, mills, factories, etc., are directing the membership work in their establishments. Motion picture theaters have arranged to show Red Cross slides.

Overalls Temporarily Replaced Dress Uniform

ANYONE who thinks the job of aid to the secretary of the navy is a continuous gold-lace dress parade sort of job will be disillusioned by paying a visit to the navy department and watching Lieutenant Commander Byron McCandless in action. Instead of gold lace and dress uniform, which he wears on public occasions as Secretary Daniels' aid, Lieutenant Commander McCandless will be found in a well-worn pair of overalls. Thereby hangs a tale.

Recently it was found necessary to increase the office space of the navy department by some 13 rooms. The only available quarters were used by the war department to store Civil War records. As a result of negotiations between Secretary Daniels and Secretary Baker, the navy got the record rooms. The floors were in need of planing and polishing before the new offices could be occupied.

Secretary Daniels was about to employ a carpenter, when he discovered that there was no money available for the work required. It is a penal offense for an officer of the government to spend money for purposes for which there has been no specific appropriation. Mr. Daniels was about to dig down into his own pocket to defray the expense of making the offices habitable when his aid, true to his title, came to his assistance. McCandless, who is a young, stalwart, handsome chap, volunteered his services. He explained that among other things taught him at Annapolis was carpentry and other branches of the mechanic arts.

For a week McCandless and his crew have been humping over electric floorplaners at odd moments. His soiled overalls attest the fact that he has not been merely bossing the job, but has been doing his full share of the work. The general navy board was so pleased with McCandless' action that it recommended him for immediate promotion. Secretary Daniels acquiesced and one of the last acts of the senate before the adjournment of the regular session was to approve the nomination, which boosted Lieutenant McCandless to lieutenant commander.

Many Seek Information About Divining Rod

CAN underground water be located by the use of a forked twig? Such is the inquiry made, by hundreds of persons every year from every part of this country, of the geological survey. This idea that a forked twig, or so-called divining rod, is useful in locating minerals, finding hidden treasure or detecting criminals is a curious superstition that has been a subject of discussion since the middle of the sixteenth century, and apparently still has a strong hold on the popular mind, even in the United States.

Geologists of the survey say, in connection with this subject, that it is doubtful whether so much investigation and discussion have been devoted on any other subject with such absolute lack of positive results. It is difficult to see, they say, how, for practical purposes, the entire matter could be more thoroughly discredited. It is by no means true that all persons using a forked twig or some other device for locating water or other minerals are intentional deceivers. However, the experts say, as anything that can be deeply veiled in mystery affords a good opportunity for swindlers, there can be no reasonable doubt that many of the large group of professional finders of water, oil or other minerals who take pay for their "services" or for the sale of their "instruments" are deliberately defrauding the people, and that the total amount of money they obtain is large. The survey, therefore, when it receives these inquiries, advises against the purchase of any of these services or instruments.

In tracing the history of the subject, it has been found that divining rods have been used to locate ore deposits; to discover buried or hidden treasure; to find lost landmarks and re-establish property boundaries; to detect criminals; to analyze personal character, to cure diseases; to trace lost or strayed domestic animals; to insure immunity against ill fortune; to locate well sites; to trace the courses of underground streams; to determine the amount of water available by drilling at a given spot, and such like.

Fads And Fancies Of Fashion



UNSURPASSED STYLE IN COVERT COATS.

For general excellence and all-around wearableness nothing ever surpassed the coat of covert cloth. It is a sturdy aristocrat among coats, and therefore returns to us each year along with the robins and other early promises of springtime. Its color and texture and stability give it an assured class and all that is needed to make its success each year is good style in designing. Coatmakers understand that designs must harmonize with fabrics. Coats of covert cloth are cut on smart lines and depend on them, and on the highest standard in workmanship, rather than on novelty or the use of adornments, to bring them recognition. Machine stitching, buttons, straps of the material are the recognized tailored means of embellishment.

The covert-cloth coat shown in the picture is long, falling within eight inches of the bottom edge of the dress skirt. A narrow belt of the cloth is looped over at the front and extended in long sash ends, as a concession to a prevalent mode, both in coats and dresses, which further recognizes in wide revers at the front and a cape collar. The very ample, flaring cuffs are beautifully tailored, with a machine-stitched V-shaped panel set in them and the same embellishment appears on the pockets. These are of the patch variety, cut long and narrowed toward the bottom with a flap at the

brim. Every other strip of braid is brought over the collar of velvet ribbon. At the right side there is a cluster of tiny roses crowded together, and resting against two leaves. Two long sash ends of velvet ribbon hang from the back. An older girl wears the satin-covered hat with its facing and binding of silk braid. Its adornment is merely a diamond-shaped figure made of heavy silk thread in bright colors, having long stitches of the same threads springing from each side.

But, for very little girls and for older ones, these satin-covered shapes, which they are privileged to wear with needlework decorations, like their elders or with trimmings distinctly childish. In the latter class belongs the little hat with a band of velvet ribbon about it and alternating short and long strips of narrow fancy braid about the



BRAID AND SATIN HATS FOR CHILDREN.

top. A row of small buttons set on each pocket answers the call to buttons which is the edict of fashion. The coat is double-breasted, with four large, fancy buttons, two of them serving for fastening, at the front. Another button, at the top, provides a means of fastening the coat up about the throat. The model hangs straight, with exceptionally long waistline, assuring it general becomingness.

An equally handsome coat of covert cloth appeared among the early showing in a semi-fitting short-waist model, with big shawl collar and flaring cuffs. It proved its loyalty to fashion in buttons by the use of more than the needed number of them, but they were all rather small and covered with covert cloth. Seams were lapped and the coat faultlessly made. It had a compelling distinction, calculated to convince the critical that nothing can quite equal the coat of covert cloth for style.

Nearly all hats for very little girls are made of narrow braids in gay colors, in combination with chiffon or crepe, net or narrow ribbon. Frills of platted crepe about the brim edge

HOME TOWN HELPS

HARM IN "KNOCKING" TOWN

If City Government Is Not What It Should Be There Are Other Remedies, It Is Urged.

It is easy to fall into a habit of petty criticism and detraction either of individuals or institutions. In the one case, when directed by one person against another it is commonly and rightfully classed as malicious gossip or slander. In the other case it is sometimes loftily designated as an exhibition of public spirit. Both are alike, a shame and disgrace to the perpetrators, an evil that should be suppressed, says the Indianapolis Star.

Men, naturally enterprising, who, under favorable circumstances, would push the interests of the community, are deterred by the feeling that they would meet with criticism and have no encouragement, and saying to themselves "what's the use?" remain passive, leaving other cities to go forward where theirs makes no headway or goes back. Outside capitalists who hear the echoes of this detraction go elsewhere with their factories and shops.

If a city government is not what it should be, there are formal and orderly means of reforming it. If a police force is inefficient, a remedy is possible without giving to the world the impression that crime is rampant and life unsafe there by day or night. If public service corporations do not act squarely and fairly by the people, there are legitimate remedies for such conditions. If any public officer makes mistakes, there are other ways of reaching him than by branding him as a rascal of the blackest dye. Men in public office, being human, have been known to be open to friendly remonstrance.

But the common scold, either in private or public, never accomplishes good.

BACKYARD GARDENING PAYS

Cleveland Has Tried Plan for Five Years to Its Profit, and Many Other Cities Have Taken Up the Idea.

"A vegetable garden for every home," is the new slogan in Ontario, and it is a slogan worth while. The provincial government has launched a systematic campaign for backyard agriculture, and it proposes to show every householder how he may, by domestic farming, combat the increasing cost of living and the growing scarcity of food-stuffs, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

One of the aims of the Ontario government is, of course, to increase the available food supply at home as to enable the contribution of still more to the hard-pressed motherland. But the plan must be broader in its results. Backyard gardening pays. Cleveland has tried it, these five years past, to its profit, and scores of other cities have taken up the idea. The earth is the source of wealth. The man who cultivates a plot of ground contributes to the welfare of all mankind.

The new Canadian movement owes its origin to the stress of war. It is the kind of movement which perpetuates itself. The man, the woman or the child who once knows the delight of growing things is always the better for it, and so is his community. This country can follow with profit the example in intensive cultivation which Ontario is to furnish.

Exterior Should Be Dignified.

The exterior of the small house may be either picturesque or formal but it should be simple and dignified in either case. Any material may be used, as stone, brick, or wood, but once chosen, it should be adhered to. It is always right to use local materials, but we need not use more than one kind simply because several kinds are at hand.

The surfaces in small work are never large enough for mixtures of materials. So also with the design of the house. The main lines ought not to be brooked up with protruding bays, unusual angles in the plan, absurdly large porches, or a complex system of roofs. Ingenuity is always a poor substitute for simplicity and good proportion. For interest, confine yourself to a simple element, like the front door, which may be played with a little.

Traffic Posts Artistic.

The most progressive development in the past which stands at the intersection of two streets and warns the automobilist to "Go to the Right," has been made by the little city of Modesto, Cal. The traffic posts in Modesto are being made artistic and ornamental, concealing their utilitarian purpose as far as possible. They are built of concrete, cast in a decorative mold, and topped by a concrete basket, which holds ferns or flowering plants. Just below the basket and set in the thickness of the post is the red lamp which warns drivers at night.

Red Brick Most Attractive.

It may be stated as a general fact that brick having a reddish cast makes the best appearance, and those which are purple, very pale-yellow or gray in tone are likely to look cold and forbidding. Take yellow brick, for instance. Yellow of the ordinary tone is too raw to be pleasant, but when it is on the orange shade (reddish) it becomes beautiful. Orange yellow is warm and pleasant to the eye.

Work of Clubs Is Preparing Women for Part They Are to Take in Civic Life

By MRS. JOSIAH EVANS COWLES of Los Angeles
President of General Federation of Women's Clubs

Very significant of the growth, the power of co-operation and the strong sense of sisterhood among women of today is the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which, besides numbering 2,000,000 women in the United States, includes scattered clubs in far-away countries—Japan, India, Australia, South America and the West Indies.

The club movement has gone a long way in a few years, from those little groups that came together for self-improvement to the great organizations of today, often numbering a thousand or more, whose chief aim is public service, and who use study and culture as a means of increasing efficiency.

That efficiency is steadily growing greater as the women recognize the meaning of federation. In each town clubs have gathered together into local federations of county or congressional district; these, again, are united into state federations, each with its officers and committees; still again, the states are welded into the national body, where, besides the usual officers, there is a board of directors, one from each state.

The hands of the federation are its departments of work, eleven in number: art, civics, civil service, conservation, education, home economics, industrial and social conditions, legislation, public health, literature and library extension and music, each having its chairman, who is a specialist in her own line, and—what is equally important as an element in her success—an expert in methods of club work and study.

Through this dovetailed organization, from general federation down through state, district, individual club, women are learning the great lesson of teamwork. Nothing could be a greater contribution to the coming citizenship of women than these elements, the sense of national unity, the training for public service and wisdom and the power to sink small personalities for the sake of some wider object.

Another important feature of the general federation is its democracy. It draws its constituents not from any single class, nor does it confine its interests to a single purpose. Rich women and poor, college bred and self-trained, city women and country women, radical and conservative, find themselves bound by ties that are stronger, more elemental, than their differences. This, too, is a thing that women, who for ages have led more self-centered lives than men, need to learn in preparation for their copartnership in civic life.

People of South Contribute Liberally Toward Education of the Negro Race

By J. P. RAWLEY, One of the Founders of the Slater Industrial School for Negroes

The people of the South are doing their full share and more toward the education and advancement of the colored race in the Southern states. Southern men are contributing liberally to the training schools for the children of the negroes whose parents or grandparents were the slaves of the men or the fathers of the men who are now assisting in this work of negro education.

And this work is being done cheerfully and with no other thought than the advancement of the colored race; to better fit them for the duties of life, to make of them self-supporting and better citizens.

The Southern people are the best friends of the negro. While they always have, and always will, refuse to recognize anything in the way of social equality between the two races, they are in no sense opposed to the negro in commercial or industrial life.

As an illustration of what the Southern people are doing, and the financial load that many Southern men have carried and are carrying, the organization and work of the Slater Industrial School for Colored Children, at Winston-Salem, N. C., is a splendid example. For several years this school was supported entirely by eight citizens of Winston-Salem, the finances of which have been handled by William A. Blair of that city. It is turning out every year several hundred well-educated and well-trained negro boys and girls, and they are having to turn away other hundreds because of lack of facilities, which they have not the funds to provide, though the school buildings, lands and appliances have cost upward of \$70,000.

An effort is now being made to increase the facilities at the Slater school so as to provide for the negro children that are now denied the opportunities that higher education and manual training will afford them.

Study of Causes of War, Not Military Drill, the Proper Step for Universities

By DAVID STARR JORDAN, President of Leland Stanford University

I do not believe that the universities have any normal relation to the military side of national defense beyond their general obligation to ascertain and to make known the truth. Military drill on the part of the students counts for very little in the way of military preparation, and its value does not compensate for its interference with study.

I believe that universities should maintain thorough courses in the history and present conditions of international relations, with a study of the causes and conditions which lead to war and to international understanding. This should not be in a spirit of propaganda, but rather for the purpose of giving the university man a real grasp on the meaning of the movements of our time. As well omit the Reformation, the Revival of Learning or the French Revolution from history as to omit the peace movement and the conditions which have thrust the world into war.

This should be studied from the standpoint of the welfare of humanity. The universities are not primarily concerned in the question of whether some petty interest of ours will be stepped on in the combat of the giants.

The main purpose of statesmanship in the future should be to keep our actions so firmly on the side of justice that war with any other nation would seem as absurd as it would be brutal and futile.

The true duty of the universities is expressed in these lines from the Harvard Crimson: "The paramount lesson of this war is not the need of attempting to insure for victory in the event of war; we must insure against war itself. The patriotism which it is the peculiar task of the educated college man to exercise must cease to be linked with military service if progress toward universal peace is ever to be made."